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# NEWS

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## **STA-21 improves Sailors' career opportunities**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The new officer accession program, Seaman to Admiral - 21 (STA-21), makes it easier than ever for Sailors to make the transition from enlisted to officer while earning college degrees. The program eliminates the inequities between commissioning pipelines. Previous officer programs varied greatly in the amount of pay and educational benefits available to Sailors.

STA-21 streamlines the application process by consolidating eight of 14 commissioning paths and using a single application. There is one application deadline and one selection board. Under STA-21, Sailors remain in an active-duty status while participating, draw full pay, allowances, and benefits, and receive an education voucher valued at up to \$10,000 per year for tuition, fees, and book costs.

STA-21 is structured to produce 490 officers annually, which is comparable to the number of Sailors commissioned through the eight legacy commissioning paths it replaces. Participants in the new program will attend Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC)-affiliated colleges or universities after gaining admission to the institution and its NROTC unit.

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College preparation courses and officer indoctrination programs tailored to Sailors' needs are incorporated into this pipeline. The Naval Science Institute begins transforming enlisted personnel to officers in an eight-week program that provides professional courses and reduces the college workload by 18 hours--allowing Sailors to graduate, and return to the fleet as officers, one semester early. When used in conjunction with credits received from the Navy College Program, the STA-21 program can dramatically reduce the time necessary to earn a degree and Navy commission. The selection board will evaluate the background of STA-21 selectees and identify those who will benefit from a college preparatory program to attend the new Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training school in Newport, R. I., for a three- to six-month individualized remediation program.

The STA-21 program was created to place a college degree and enhanced career opportunities within reach of today's Sailors.

STA-21 combines the following eight legacy commissioning paths: NROTC two-year, four-year, and Nurse option; Enlisted Commissioning Program Basic, Aviation option, Nuclear option, Civil Engineer Corps option; and the original Seaman to Admiral program.

For more information on the STA-21 program, go to its website at [www.sta-21.navy.mil](http://www.sta-21.navy.mil); see NAVADMIN 128/01; call 850-452-4967, extension 313 or 337 or DSN 922-4967, extension 313 or 337 or 1-800-NAV-ROTC; or send email to: [sta21@cnet.navy.mil](mailto:sta21@cnet.navy.mil).

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